

THE

MONTHLY



GULL

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FARALLON RESEARCH REPORT AT MAY MEETING

John Ralph, Director-Biologist of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will discuss the ornithological research on the Farallon Islands at the regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **Thursday, May 8**. The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a no-host dinner at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street, one block from the Science Center. Visitors are welcome.—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY-JUNE

Saturday, May 3 (as announced in April Gull) McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, in the Livermore Valley. Bullock's Orioles, Phainopeplas, Western Kingbirds, Yellow-billed Magpies and Lewis' Woodpeckers can be seen. Meet in Livermore one block beyond the tall flagpole on Livermore Ave. at **8 a.m.** Allow one hour's driving time from Oakland. Leader, Miss Erline Hevel, 661-4251.

Sunday, May 4, above trip will be repeated. Leader, Miss Aileen Pierson, 587-4163.

Saturday, May 17, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Marin County, to study bird songs. Be prepared to do some hiking. Meet **promptly at 8 a.m.** in Madrone Picnic area, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Park Headquarters on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Allow 1 hour's driving time from Golden Gate Bridge. (The entrance fee to the park is 75¢ per car.) Leader, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 526-7004.

Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 1, Yosemite National Park. Friday will be free to explore this beautiful park on your own. At this writing we still do not know whether the park will have a place for Warren Larson to show his Great Gray Owl movies on Friday evening. For information check at Park Headquarters in the Village on Friday. The main field trip will begin **promptly at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 31**, from the main post office in Government Center. *Please arrive 15 minutes before this departure time and bring your lunch.* (Note: Due to heavy winter snows it is advisable to come prepared.) Leaders: Ted Chandik, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, A. Warren Larson.

Saturday, June 14, to north side of Mt. Tamalpais. We shall hike along the shores of three lovely wooded lakes where a variety of birds can be seen and heard. Three Pileated Woodpeckers highlighted this trip in 1967. The field trip will begin **promptly at 8:30 a.m.** from the public parking lot in Fairfax. Bring *knapsack lunch*. Leaders: Miss Patricia Triggs and Mrs. Olga Laist.

On all field trips bring binoculars, lunch and friends. MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

ALBATROSS EXPEDITION

A Stagnaro Sport Fishing boat will leave the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf at **7:30 a.m. June 16** on the annual 4-hour albatross expedition of the Santa Cruz Bird Club. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your \$2 fare to Leavitt McQuesten, 120 Otis St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The boat holds 50 passengers.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

The 11th Biennial Wilderness Conference held at the San Francisco Hilton on March 14-15 was attended by several Golden Gate officers and members. We'll never know how many were included among those 1250 or so conferees. A "Golden Gate table" at the Friday night banquet included Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative. New National Audubon President Elvis Stahr shared the platform with Congressman Richard Ottinger of New York.

Dr. Stahr spoke on "The Most Glaring Gap in Education" and pleaded for more conservation and environmental education at all levels in the American school system. With a background ranging from university administration to Secretary of the Army, it appears that our new President should be able to influence teachers, professors, curriculum planners—perhaps even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on occasion!

Congressman Ottinger described his battles with power lobbies in New York State and revealed he was working with other senators and congressmen toward a Congressional "Clearance Committee" to handle future FPC projects. Man's finger is on the environmental trigger he reminded us. He agreed with other Conference speakers that this "apocalyptic day of reckoning" might be more certain and catastrophic than any H bomb!

"Wilderness, the Edge of Knowledge" was the Conference theme, but the ominous threats of population explosions and environmental destruction were closely tied to wilderness preservation. Dr. Paul Ehrlich of Stanford opened Friday sessions with a brilliant address. Dr. Lee Talbot, his wife Marty, Prof. Roderick Nash of Santa Barbara and Dr. Albert Hochbaum of the Delta Research Station, Manitoba, followed Ehrlich.

Dr. Hochbaum portrayed the wolf as a wilderness symbol and, just as he concluded, eerie wolf howls shook the chandeliers and any drowsy conferees. His taped wolves were a welcome contrast to the drills and hammers of Hilton workmen behind a partition!

Alaska—the preservation or proper use of its natural resources—was the sub-theme of the Conference. Friday afternoon and Saturday forenoon

sessions were devoted to this. Papers and presentations on this subject Friday ran too long, we felt—like other Conference sessions. But Attorney Brock Evans of Seattle, Northwestern Regional Representative for the Sierra Club and the FWOC, shook up the audience with his attack on current handling of Alaskan resources by the State of Alaska and the Federal Government. Less than 10% of Alaska enjoys real, permanent protection against exploitation, asserted Evans. The new pipeline to the arctic oil field cost almost ten million acres of wilderness, and earthquake disruption could pollute tundra and the Arctic Ocean!

Congressman Jeffery Cohelan and Senator Henry Jackson of Washington shared a luncheon platform Saturday. Senator Jackson advised us not to panic and demand cessation of all continental shelf oil drilling, as revenues from this supports wildlife, open space and recreation programs throughout the country. So true, we knew. More welcome news was the announcement that the Senator is working toward a new "Youth Conservation Corps" to take care of youngsters between 14 and 17 who are unacceptable due to age barriers by governmental agencies and labor laws. Such a program would acquaint thousands of urban boys with practical ecology and conservation problems—besides bolstering their self-confidence and work experience. The Senator was presented with the Sierra Club's John Muir Award. Saturday afternoon featured able speakers like designer and philosopher Buckminster Fuller, John Milton of the Conservation Foundation, and three conservationist academicians—Professors George Macinko, Robert Curry and Garrett Hardin. Dr. Hardin fired a final round that shook some of us and reverberated to the local press. Close the road and let the able-bodied walk into wilderness areas, he advised—even the ten miles into Yosemite Valley! Shades of the Currys—could this ever happen there? Sunday some 700 conferees took a conservation cruise on S.F. Bay.

The "Highway Power Lobby", blasted so heavily by Congressional speakers at the Wilderness Conference, now threatens precious Coyote Canyon in our Anza-Borrego State Park. The San Diego County Master Road Plan, pushed by certain county politicians and Borrego Springs landowners, calls for building a high-speed highway along Coyote Creek to connect with a Riverside County Extension. It is alleged it would reduce driving time from the Imperial Valley to Los Angeles by 20 minutes and permit fast shipment of perishables from Borrego Valley. The facts are: that Borrego Valley farming is being phased out for a dropping water table. Where would the proposed developments, really for motels and dude ranches, get their water? Would this road gradient really benefit trucking—with good alternate routes available? And what about the 100 to 500 people—hikers, students, scientists, horseback riders, campers—who now visit Coyote Canyon weekly to enjoy unspoiled desert ecology—sometimes even to glimpse the desert bighorns? There will be a State Park and Recreation Commission hearing on this Coyote Canyon highway May 9. Statements marked to be included in the hearing may be sent to Mr. Wm. Penn Mott, Jr. P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento 95814.

Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel, who declined to appear at the Wilderness Conference, did accomplish considerable in his safari to investigate the Everglades alligator-poachers about the same time. Even more urgent long-range problems confronting the future of the Glades were discussed, such as water diversion for new developments and a huge jet airport to be built on their north boundary. More on the Secretary's tour was reported in the *Christian Science Monitor* of March 18, including an amazing, heartening statement from Governor Claude R. Kirk, Jr. (taken from context): "We don't want growth for growth's sake . . ." Enlightened thinking, Governor. We'd like to hear more like this from mayors and governors across the nation!—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

POINT REYES' LAKE RANCH TO BECOME SUBDIVISION?

"Mr. Sweet, owner of the Lake Ranch, has announced that he expects to sell the ranch for subdivision into 40 acre lots. The Lake Ranch divides the southern end of the Park from Bear Valley. Both of those areas have now been acquired, as well as the Bolema Club triangle of shoreline and lakes adjoining and just north of the Lake Ranch. If the ranch is sold we lose Double Point and its fine section of cliffs, three natural freshwater lakes, the timbered eastern slope of the range and, since the private land runs from the ocean to Highway 1, it would be an unsurmountable barrier to use of the southern end of the Seashore. Mr. Sweet, who now lives in Coos Bay, Oregon, is reluctant to see the land go into private hands but he and other family members cannot wait much longer for Federal action

"Congress set a ceiling of \$19 million total purchases in the Point Reyes project when it was first authorized and that limit has been reached. The only hope for new acquisitions is to raise the ceiling limitation by legislative action, and the first steps at lifting this roadblock have been made in Congress. In February Congressmen Clausen and Mailliard introduced HR 3786, raising the ceiling to \$56 million, and a companion bill in the Senate (number not yet known) was sponsored by Senators Murphy and Cranston on March 12"—CICELY CHRISTY, *Sierra Club Yodeler*, April.

NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Audubon Nature Training Program, sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society at Berkeley's Aquatic Park, needs four volunteers: A Coordinator, a Public Relations Speaker, a Librarian, and someone to visit schools to select children's science projects for display. If you can help, please phone Miss Phyllis Lindley, 549-1038.

Audubon Nature Training Program received a gift from Aileen Pierson *in honor of* Bertha Underhill and a gift from Martha G. Henderson *in memory of* Stanley McPherson.—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*.

The annual Stinson Beach Wildflower Show will be in the Stinson Beach Community Center on Saturday and Sunday, **May 3 and 4** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults, 75¢; Children, 25¢.



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of S. F. Bay Area

Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of

Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The U.S. Department of the Interior will present a plaque to Audubon Canyon Ranch on May 18, marking the Ranch as a registered National Natural Landmark.

The *Redwood Log* says Marin Audubon Society's annual chicken barbecue at Audubon Canyon Ranch for the benefit of the Ranch will take place Mother's Day, Sunday, **May 11**. It begins at **12:30** and ends when the chicken runs out. Jack Hermann is in charge this year with some willing helpers but he needs more. Volunteers please telephone him at 461-0597 or write 190 Bon Air Rd., Kentfield 94904.

MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The March 8th Grizzly-Joice Island field trip, led by Warren Larson and Superintendent Rolf Mall, had 90 participants. White-tailed Kites and Marsh Hawks appeared throughout the day. Aileen Pierson, et al., spotted a Barn Owl basking in the sun in a field just 35 yards from the road. Warren Larson and others photographed the owl. It flew away only when it was approached within 20 feet. Perhaps in the near future we'll have the opportunity to see Mr. Larson's movies of this very photogenic Barn Owl.

Spring was everywhere in Tilden Park on the March 29th field trip led by L. R. Leinbach, assisted by Fred Nora and Carlton Detar. Forty Audubonites saw many wildflowers in bloom. Singing Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers were present in good numbers.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA

OBSERVATIONS IN MARCH

If you would like to see a *Painted Bunting*, try painting your house. While Marshall and Violet Jencks were having their house painted in March, they were surprised and delighted to find a Painted Bunting on their feeder. This rare visitor—a colorful male—stayed in Oakland from March 9 through March 11. He could have served as a palette for the painter! Paul Covel and Vi Homem photographed the dazzling bird on the feeder in the middle of a blossoming fruit tree.

John Smail of PRBO reported a *Yellow-billed Loon* in the Point Reyes National Seashore area in March. A flock of *Bohemian Waxwings* were with Cedar Waxwings in Santa Rosa for about three weeks in March. At

Humboldt Bay, Wes Hettrick observed about 450 *Bohemian Waxwings*. On March 15 Val DaCosta saw an adult *Goshawk* at Rodeo Lagoon—the second Goshawk she had seen along the coast this winter. Ten birders observed a male *Oldsquaw*, a *Red-necked Grebe* and five *Common Scoters* near Limantour Spit, Point Reyes Seashore March 18. Gordon Bolander reported four *Trumpeter Swans* near Santa Rosa this winter. A *Slate-Colored Junco* remained in the Montclair hills of Oakland from December 1 through March 23.

RICHARDSON BAY SANCTUARY GIFT

The National Audubon Society has received a gift of three acres of tideland and one acre of upland immediately to the east of the Dickey House and adjoining the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon. The gift was made by Harry L. Marshall, Jr. of Chicago as a memorial to his wife and parents. The late Mrs. Beth Armstrong and Morse Erskine of San Francisco were also named in the memorial.

CONSERVATION NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

The Italian furriers' association has stopped making sealskin coats because of their countrymen's outrage over the killing of baby seals in Canada. . . .

National Audubon has joined the Dallas County (Texas) Audubon Society in protesting plans for a golf course that would wipe out part of the habitat of a rare species of bird, the Golden-cheeked Warbler. It would also destroy one of the few remaining unspoiled tracts of native vegetation in the state. What's more, the developers want to build it with a federal loan and in a state park. . . .

Our research director, Alexander Sprunt, IV, has been coordinating activities of a committee of federal, state and private agency representatives trying to find reasons for the decline of the Brown Pelican. The "pelican state" of Louisiana hasn't had any known breeding pairs there for more than a decade. The situation in Texas is almost as bad, and southern U.S. and Latin American populations are declining. Probable major causes: water pollution and pesticides. The Pelican Committee may be reached through the Audubon Research Department, Box 231, Tavernier, Fla. 33070.—*Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND REPORTS PROGRESS IN 1968-69

"Surely a concern for the survival of our wildlife and wild places is as much a manifestation of human enlightenment as are the arts, discovery, exploration, education and tolerance, and is equally as important to the total quality of life."—*World Wildlife Fund*.

Founded in 1961, the World Wildlife Fund is the only conservation organization that assists, on a priority basis, projects to help save threatened species and habitat areas anywhere in the world. WWF has supported more than 150 national and international projects and is the major

financial supporter of the vital work of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the International Council for Bird Preservation.

One of the Fund's recent projects was the acquisition of the valuable salt-marsh lands in southern New Jersey before the real estate developers could move in. The areas purchased—5,000 acres between Avalon and Cape May—contain some of the country's prime shelter and nurture areas for fish as well as shore and water birds.

Other projects of WWF:

... Supplies guards and wardens for sanctuaries in Indonesia, Kenya and Madagascar.

... Supports a Nature and Educational Center in Israel where three sanctuaries have been established.

... Has acquired 9 outstanding wilderness areas of more than 200,000 acres in the U.S., Great Britain, Spain, Colombia, Central America, Iceland and the Seychelles Islands (U.K.) in the Indian Ocean.

... Has aided conservation projects for 16 endangered species, including habitat management, relocation of animals from danger areas to safety, and establishment of breeding nuclei. Among species aided were the Orang-utan, Javan Rhino, Cheetah, Warana Sea Turtle and Japanese Crested Ibis.

"In South and Central America a conservation program must be implemented to increase protection of the Mountain Tapir and the Vicuña and a plan must be developed to protect remaining populations of the brilliantly plumed Quetzal and its cloud-forest habitat. . . .

"We appreciate the support of our 30,000 friends who have made our 1968 achievements possible and through your continuing interest we will accomplish even more during 1969."

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to *World Wildlife Fund, Inc.*, 910 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington DC 20006.

MARINE ECOLOGY COURSE AT ASILOMAR

UC Extension will offer a two-week field course, June 28-July 13, in the general marine biology and ecology of tide pools and shore areas of the Monterey Peninsula. "The Ocean As An Environment—X 161" will include field trips, laboratory sessions and lectures on marine geology, oceanography, ornithology, mammalogy, ichthyology, invertebrate zoology, and marine botany. The prerequisite is an introductory college-level course in biological science. **Enrollment deadline is June 13.** Fee: \$135. For Asilomar accommodation rates write to Mrs. Roma Philbrook, Manager, Asilomar Conference Grounds, P.O. Box 537, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. For course information and registration write or phone UC Letters and Science Extension, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720; 642-1061.

(We wish this course would be a prerequisite for the post of Secretary of the Interior.—ED)



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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.